



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Fourth Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
8:32 a.m.

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Fourth Session**

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Nose Hill (PC), Chair
Woo-Paw, Teresa, Calgary-Mackay (PC), Deputy Chair

Allred, Ken, St. Albert (PC)
Benito, Carl, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)
Boutilier, Guy C., Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Dallas, Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)
Doerksen, Arno, Strathmore-Brooks (PC)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Hinman, Paul, Calgary-Glenmore (W)
Horner, Doug, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert (PC)
Jacobs, Broyce, Cardston-Taber-Warner (PC)
Kang, Darshan S., Calgary-McCall (AL)
Lindsay, Fred, Stony Plain (PC)
Lund, Ty, Rocky Mountain House (PC) *
McQueen, Diana, Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)
Morton, F.L., Foothills-Rocky View (PC)
Redford, Alison M., QC, Calgary-Elbow (PC)
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)
Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)
Taft, Dr. Kevin, Edmonton-Riverview (AL)
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)

* substitution for Alison Redford

Also in Attendance

Rogers, George, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)

Support Staff

Shannon Dean

Florence Marston

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Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

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[Dr. Brown in the chair]

The Chair: Okay. I'm going to call the meeting to order and welcome everyone this morning. I think we'll begin with some introductions. If we could start on my left with Ms Woo-Paw.

Ms Woo-Paw: Good morning. Teresa Woo-Paw, Calgary-Mackay.

Mrs. Sarich: Good morning. Janice Sarich, MLA for Edmonton-Decore and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Sandhu: Good morning. Peter Sandhu, MLA, Edmonton-Manning.

Mrs. McQueen: Good morning. Diana McQueen, MLA, Drayton Valley-Calmar.

Mr. Drysdale: Wayne Drysdale, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Dallas: Good morning. Cal Dallas, Red Deer-South.

Mr. Allred: Ken Allred, St. Albert.

Mr. Kang: Good morning. Darshan Kang, Calgary-McCall.

Dr. Taft: Kevin Taft, Edmonton-Riverview.

Ms Calahasen: Pearl Calahasen, Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Rogers: Good morning, everyone. George Rogers, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon. I'm not a member of this committee, Mr. Chairman, but I hear this is a really exciting meeting, so I'm here out of great interest.

The Chair: Welcome, Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Doerksen: Good morning. Arno Doerksen. I'm the MLA for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Jacobs: Bryce Jacobs, Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Lund: Good morning. I'm Ty Lund, MLA for Rocky Mountain House, pinch-hitting for Alison Redford.

Ms Marston: Florence Marston. I'm the assistant to the committee.

The Chair: I'm Neil Brown, and I'm the chair of the committee.

Ms Dean: Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel and director of House services.

The Chair: For the record, Mr. Boutilier is joining us via teleconferencing. Welcome, Mr. Boutilier.

Mr. Boutilier: Good morning. Guy Boutilier, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, the oil sands capital of the world.

The Chair: Okay. The first order of business is to approve the agenda for this morning's meeting. It has been circulated. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda? Motion to approve? Mr. Doerksen. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

The next order of business is that we do have some minutes left over from the last session. The minutes of the April 13, 2010, meeting have been circulated. Are there any errors or omissions in the meeting minutes? Moved by Mr. Dallas to adopt the minutes as circulated. Any discussion? Opposed? That's carried.

We've been joined by Mr. Hinman, the MLA for Calgary-Glenmore. Welcome, Mr. Hinman.

We have seven petitions before us this morning. However, there is some commonality of the issues in four of those petitions. I think at this juncture I'll call upon Ms Dean, our Parliamentary Counsel, to briefly introduce the seven bills.

Ms Dean: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As noted, we've received seven petitions for private bills this year. Six out of the seven fully comply with the standing order requirements. As you know, the standing order requirements are set out in chapter 8. The deadline this year was March 9. As just a quick refresher, the petitioners are required to submit petitions to our office together with a draft bill, a cheque for \$200 as well as proof of advertising in a daily newspaper and the *Alberta Gazette*.

The first private bill we have this year is the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Amendment Act, 2011. Mr. Rogers is going to be the sponsor of that bill. The purpose of this is to amend the incorporating statute for the AAMD and C to include a definition of "rural municipality." The association also wants to update certain governance provisions to reflect the current practice. Again, this petition has met all the standing order requirements.

The second petition will be sponsored by Ms Pastoor, and it's titled the Galt Scholarship Fund Transfer Act. The petitioner in this instance is the Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Society of Lethbridge, and they're looking to modify the terms of a scholarship fund that was established by a private act quite some time ago. I think it dates back to the 1930s or '40s. They're looking to transfer the responsibility of that fund to the University of Lethbridge, and they would like to remove some of the eligibility requirements, basically, to open it up so that any University of Lethbridge student would be eligible for the scholarship.

There's one minor deficiency with respect to this petition's supporting documentation, and that's the *Alberta Gazette* ad. They haven't provided the necessary proof of advertising before the March 9 deadline. We have received something confirming that it will be published in today's edition of the *Alberta Gazette*. Again there's a minor deficiency with respect to the ad that's going to be published today, so the petitioner's counsel has undertaken to do another ad for the March 31 edition.

Now, in instances such as this the committee can recommend to the Assembly that the relevant standing order, which is Standing Order 91, be waived subject to the requirement that the proof of advertising be provided to the committee prior to the hearing on the bill. So if the petitioner's counsel follows through on his undertaking, we would be receiving the proof of advertising by the end of March, which would give us ample time before the proposed hearing date, which is sometime in April.

So, Mr. Chair, it would be appropriate for the committee to consider a motion at this time.

The Chair: I think Mr. Lund is prepared to make a motion for that waiver.

Mr. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the petition for the Galt Scholarship Fund Transfer Act I would move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend to the Assembly that Standing Order 94(1)(b) be waived subject to the condition that the committee be provided with a statutory declaration confirming that the advertising has been completed before the committee hearings of the petition.

The Chair: Any discussion on the motion?

Dr. Taft: Mr. Chairman, could you have the motion repeated, please?

The Chair: Certainly.

Dr. Taft: Thanks.

Mr. Lund: With respect to the petition for the Galt Scholarship Fund Transfer Act I move that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend to the Assembly that Standing Order 94(1)(b) be waived subject to the condition that the committee be provided with a statutory declaration confirming that the advertising has been completed before the committee hears the petition.

Dr. Taft: Thank you.

The Chair: The gist of it is that we're simply waiving the time period here. It will be done before the hearing or we don't have to proceed. It's just a slip provision.

Mr. Kang, did you have a comment?

Mr. Kang: No. Thanks.

The Chair: Okay. Any further discussion? All in favour, then, of the motion as presented by Mr. Lund? Anyone opposed? That's carried.

8:40

Ms Dean: Mr. Chair, if I can carry on, private bills 3, 4, 5, and 6 are from four Calgary residents associations, each of which is looking for a private act that would provide for a tax exemption for the recreational properties held by the Tuscany, New Brighton, Cranston, and Auburn Bay residents associations. This exemption would be from municipal and school taxes so long as the property is used for recreational purposes and so long as these entities are nonprofit corporations. In each case the standing order requirements have been met.

The Chair: Question?

Mr. Doerksen: Just a question with regard to precedent on this. I imagine there is significant precedent for this type.

The Chair: Well, when we get to the hearings, Mr. Doerksen, we'll get into the merits of it and the precedents and whatnot.

Mr. Doerksen: Okay.

The Chair: Prior to that, Parliamentary Counsel will give us some advice and some background with respect to these issues.

Mr. Doerksen: Thank you.

Ms Dean: I will point out, Mr. Chair, if I may, that the city of Calgary has notified our office that they are opposed to these petitions, and they will be invited to appear at the hearing.

Mr. Allred: Just on procedure, are you saying that we're not to discuss this at this time, that we have to wait for the hearings?

The Chair: Yeah. No, we're not going to discuss the merits of any of the petitions this morning. This morning is to advise which petitions have come forward and met the requirements.

Mr. Allred: So what type of questions are you inviting, then?

The Chair: I'm not inviting any questions.

Mr. Allred: Oh, I thought you were. Did you not ask if there were any questions?

The Chair: Okay. Is that it, then?

Ms Dean: There's one more petition that we've received, and that's from the Hull Child and Family Services organization. This bill will be sponsored by Mr. Rodney. Hull Child and Family Services is seeking an amendment to its private act to provide for a change in name to Hull services. This petition has fulfilled all the standing order requirements.

The Chair: Right. So the next order of business is to set out our schedule of hearings and deliberations. We have circulated and, hopefully, everyone has received the proposed schedule of meetings.

The proposal is that

we would hear Pr. 1, Pr. 2, and Pr. 7 on April 12 at 8:30 a.m. and Pr. 3, Pr. 4, Pr. 5, and Pr. 6, which have the commonality of issues, together on April 19 at 8:30 a.m. Then we would meet the following week, April 26, at 9 a.m. for our deliberations and decisions.

We have followed the precedent of this committee because of the scheduling and had them on those dates because traditionally, I think, Tuesday mornings were when we found that we can fit things in and not interfere with people's caucus meetings or other scheduled meetings as far as possible.

I'll just open the floor to discussion or any objections to the proposed schedule. Mr. Allred.

Mr. Allred: I'll move adoption of the scheduled meetings for April 12, 19, and 26.

The Chair: Thank you.

Any discussion? Ready to vote, then? All in favour of the motion as put by Mr. Allred to adopt the proposed schedule of meetings? Anyone opposed? That's carried. Thank you very much.

Is there any other business to be brought before the meeting this morning?

Seeing none, then, I will see everyone on April 12, 8:30 a.m.

Could I have a motion to adjourn? Mrs. McQueen. All in favour? That's carried.

Thank you very much for attending, everyone.

[The committee adjourned at 8:44 a.m.]

